

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Town Board held September 15, 2011 at the Village Gym. The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Stelmashuck at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Stephen Stelmashuck, Supervisor
Doug Jordan, Councilor
John Dunham, Councilor
Mary Lou Guindon, Councilor
Mary Ann Phillips, Councilor
Kelly Reader, Town Clerk

Also Present: Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Belden Dawley, Hwy Sup't; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.; Bill Scriber, PL Brd Chair; Mary LaFlair, Deputy DCO; Karen Gage, BAR Member; Maureen Wafer, CEO; Denise Sigourney, Assessor; Dale Chapman, Jack Rucynski, John Horning, and Bernie Horning.

Supervisor Stelmashuck explained that because a Two Percent Tax Cap was passed it also limited Basic Star and Enhanced Star exemptions to a 2% savings over the prior year. Therefore, the Parish Taxpayers did not receive their full benefit for their Star Exemptions. The Board would like answers from the County, State and School Representatives regarding the 2% Tax Cap and the 100% Equalization rate that the State mandates to receive your full benefit of Star Exemption. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the taxpayers are being penalized twice, once for not being at 100% equalization rate and twice for the 2% Tax Cap. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he would like an informal question and answer session on the school tax issue. He will try and get in contact with some representatives from the various agencies to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

August Regular Minutes: A motion was made by Councilor Guindon, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the August Minutes with the following corrections: Under Pulled Vouchers from Last Board Meeting: Councilor Phillips stated that she did not make the motion to approve the pulled vouchers. Also, under Approval of Bills: General Fund-Councilor Phillips opposed approving the bills. Roll taken...motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

Supervisor's Financial Report: Supervisor Stelmashuck presented a monthly financial Report for August 2011 and a Supervisor's Detailed Report.

October Calendar: The October Calendar will be presented at the workshop on Thursday, September 22, 2011.

Revenue Reports: The Regular and Justice Reports for 8/2011 were received by the Board and filed with the Clerk. The Board requested totals for the accounts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Affairs, Parks, Preservation and Recreation Committee: Councilor Guindon stated that the Committee met on 9/12/2011.

The Disc Course was completed last Saturday. It was suggested that the Town contact the 4 properties surrounding the park to obtain boundary lines as it may reduce the cost of surveying if adjacent property information was provided.

High Speed Internet: Comp USA attended two meetings in Amboy. Councilor Guindon stated that she would try and get the number for the Comp USA representative to see if High Speed Internet is a possibility for Parish.

Town Logo: Discussion was held on the Town's Logo.

The 3-hole Chipping Course has been completed and is being used.

BOCES is working on the framework for the Boardwalk at the park and fundraising for the Boardwalk materials will begin.

Also, a request will be submitted to the Parish Elementary to donate their playground equipment to Merrill Park if possible.

A Grand Opening will be held on October 1st, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Merrill Park to display the new Wilderness Disc Golf for the public to test and improve your skills with a Frisbee. The first 24 to try out the new course will receive their own official Innova disc golf disc. Refreshments will be available.

Newsletter: Councilor Guindon stated that she would like the Board to consider funding \$250.00 of a Community Newsletter. The Newsletter will cost around \$450.00. Oswego County Mutual has offered to print the Newsletter. The postage would be around \$400.00.

The Village would be asked to contribute \$100.00 and the Historical Society has offered \$100.00 and the remainder would be from the Town for the amount of \$250.00.

Motion: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Guindon to fund the Town's portion of the Community Newsletter of \$250.00 taking the funds from A7550.4 Celebration Line. Roll taken...Councilor Jordan-opposed...motion carried.

Emergency Services and Public Safety Committee: No Report.

Financial Affairs Committee: Councilor Phillips reported that she had met with the Bookkeeper. Deputy Supervisor Swartz and Councilor Phillips are up to March with reconciliation of the checking accounts.

General Gov't Committee: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the Comptroller's Office is working on a final report that the Town should receive at the end of this year or early next year.

Infrastructure, Policy and Public Facilities Committee: No Report.

Task Force: August Minutes were submitted by Fred Swartz. The Board indicated that they had not received a copy. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he would be sure that everyone received a copy of the August Task Force Minutes.

Water Committee: No additional information was available at this time.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that locating funding for water is the key to creating a Water District.

Tim Burley was going to attend the meeting but was unable to at this time.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he was informed that the Village could no be the lead agency for a Water District and the Town would have to be the lead agency to pursue water options.

Discussion was held regarding contacting someone to provide options on the creation of Water Districts.

2011 Finance/Efficiency Committee Report: The Town Board is reviewing the recommendations at their Budget Workshops.

REPORTS:

Legislator's Report: Tabled.

Highway Report: Hwy Sup't Dawley stated that the County has authorized the Highway Dept. to haul sand from Williamstown for the winter.

Hwy Sup't Dawley provided a report on fuel costs regarding obtaining fuel from the APW School District.

Hwy Sup't Dawley stated that his research concluded that there would be no cost savings to the Town at this time by purchasing fuel from the School District.

Councilor Phillips stated that she had a meeting scheduled with Stewart Brown, APW Transportation Sup't.

Clerk's Report: Clerk Reader submitted a written Town Clerk and Dog License Report for August, 2011.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Sigourney provided 2 handouts on the Equalization Rate and on the 2% limits on State Savings increases.

Assessor Sigourney stated that she had attended a meeting with Senator Richie and it was discussed that the 2% Tax Cap Law should not effect the Reval. Approximately 25% of property owner taxes stayed within 10% of an increase or decrease amount. Less than 40% went over 10%. Approximately 35% of residents went below 10%. 1/3 increased due to the 2% tax cap.

CEO Report: CEO Wafer submitted a written CEO Report for August 2011. CEO Wafer stated that she and Assessor Sigourney will go out to properties together when they can to save on mileage.

DCO Report: Deputy DCO LaFlair stated that she apologized for not having a written DCO Report available for the meeting, but she had been experiencing computer program problems but she will e-mail a report to the Clerk for August. 12 Appearance Tickets have been issued for non-compliance to dog licensing.

Planning Board Chair Report: The Board received copies of the August 2011 Planning Board Minutes and Planning Board Report was received by the Board. PL Brd Chair Scriber stated that a Special Use-Temporary Permit that is no longer allowed under the Zoning Law has been referred to the ZBA as the resident is requesting a variance.

Frequently asked questions regarding Planning and Zoning issues will be posted on the Town's Website.

Fire Chief's Report: Fire Chief Harvey gave the Fire Report for August 2011.

Tug Hill Circuit Rider Report: Paul Baxter stated that a Budget Workshop will be held Wednesday, 9/21/2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe, Town Hall. The workshop will assist local officials in preparing annual budgets while working within the tax limit legislation ("Tax Cap").

Paul said he is hoping to have the 2011 budget comparisons soon.

Paul stated that he took time from his vacation to connect the Town and Village computers to the new copier.

Supervisor Stelmashuck thank Paul for his assistance for connecting the computers to the copier.

Paul stated that if anyone had any training topics they would like him to try and schedule to let him know.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, & PETITIONS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audit by the Comptroller's Office-Update was already given.

New Visions, CNY Wireless, Comp USA Direct: Councilor Guindon stated that she would try and contact Comp USA Direct to obtain information.

Upcoming Vacancy on Board of Assessment Review: More discussion will be held in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hwy Fuel: Councilor Phillips stated that she has been in contact with Legislator Leemann regarding obtaining fuel with the County Highway Department. Legislator Leemann requested a letter from the Town expressing interest in participating with the County in purchasing fuel.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Jordan to authorize Supervisor Stelmashuck to send a letter informing the County Legislature that The Town of Parish would like to be considered to participate with the County's new fuel program and include the Parish fire Company if permissible. Roll taken...motion carried.

Payroll Checks: A motion was made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Jordan to require all employees to show ID and sign for their pay checks once a year.

Roll taken...motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reval: Councilor Phillips stated that she was not happy with the school tax increase. A motion was made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Jordan to throw the current Reval out and start again next year with a new Reval to be completed in one year.

Discussion: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that completing another Reval would be very costly and it was his recommendation to explore other options.

Assessor Sigourney stated that she would try to set up a meeting with the State to explain the 2% Tax Cap and why it affected the current school taxes. Assessor Sigourney stated that it was her understanding that it would not affect the Reval this year.

A motion was made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Jordan to withdraw the motion to throw the Reval out until more information can be obtained and other options can be explored. Roll taken...motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding going back to 3 Elected Assessors. Also, Councilor Jordan asked what the total cost savings was to the taxpayers by going to an Appointed Sole Assessor. Councilor Jordan stated that he would like a cost breakdown for the Appointed Assessor compared to 3 Elected Assessors.

Councilor Phillips stated that she didn't feel that the Board had any more control over an Appointed Assessor than Elected Assessors.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the option you have with an Appointed Assessor is that you don't have to reappoint an Appointed Assessor if you are not satisfied with the job that they are doing and you do not have that option with Elected Assessors.

Attorney Genant was asked about Appointed Assessors. Attorney Genant responded that ORPS requires certification and training for Assessors. The Assessors are hired to do a professional job using State Guidelines. The Board Members are not trained or certified to conduct a reval.

Bulk Mail: Information will be available at the Joint Meeting.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

John Horning stated that he had hired an attorney and consulted with two Assessors with 25+ years of experience. The Assessors stated that they felt because of the Town Assessor's lack of experience that the Town's assessments are at 120% equalization rate but still within State Guidelines for a Revaluation. Mr. Horning stated that because of the high assessments this caused the tax increase as well as the 2% Tax Cap.

Assessor Sigourney stated that she has been doing Revals for over 20 years. Also, Assessor Signorney stated that she can't just lower assessments and the State determines a lot of the percentages. Karen Gage stated that the comps the Assessor is using are creating problems with establishing assessments. The lack of sales should set the equalization rate. Rate complaints were discussed. Assessor Sigourney stated that she was told that the reval can not be reversed because she signed the roll. Also, Assessor Sigourney stated that she has to follow guidelines set by the State during a reval.

Jack Rucynski stated that he appreciates Councilor Phillips for trying to correct problems with the reval and 2% Tax Cap issue.

A letter should be drafted to the State making an official complaint from the Town of Parish.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Jordan to approve the bills to the General Fund, those being claims #373-#407 for a total warrant of \$6,200.14.

Discussion: Councilor Phillips stated that some accounts are in the hole in specific in the B Account for the CEO and transfers should be made prior to the approval of the bills.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the transfers will be made prior to the payment of the bill for the accounts in question. A list of transfers will be available in October for the Board.

Roll taken...Councilor Phillips-opposed-motion carried.

Highway Fund: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the claims to the Highway Fund, those being claims #170-#181 for a total warrant of \$42,285.49. Roll taken...motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Phillips to enter into Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel. Roll taken... motion carried. The Town Attorney was invited to attend.

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Phillips to adjourn from Executive Session at 9:01 p.m. Roll taken...motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Guindon to re-advertise for the BAR position. Roll taken...motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Guindon to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Roll taken...motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader
Parish Town Clerk